

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0070] on page 17 of the application as filed with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0070] The reduced growth phenotype, commonly referred to as the dwarf phenotype, may be a useful trait for improving crop yield, for example, by reducing the shade-avoidance syndrome exhibited by many crop plants when grown at high density. Generally, in response to being within shade caused by nearby vegetation, plants will alter their architecture in an effort to escape the shaded area. As such, plants develop a shade avoidance response which is generally characterized by an increase in elongation growth, which is an inefficient use of a plant's resources, and thereby results in a decrease in the degree of branching and a shortened flowering period for the plant. http://www.kcl.ac.uk/kis/schools/life_sciences/life_sci/DevlinR.html. Reduction in shade avoidance allows a plant to utilize its resources more for growth and production of leaves, fruits and seeds, wasting less of its resources on stalk growth, and thereby results in a healthier and more productive plant. Reduction in shade avoidance also allows for higher density planting. In addition, the dwarf phenotype may also be used, for example, to generate varieties of horticultural plants with semi-dwarfed aerial portions and normal roots, such as for example, turfgrass with semi-dwarf blades and normal roots. Such would allow for a denser growing grass (*i.e.*, a greater number of blades per unit of soil). --